

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

INTEROFFICE COMMUNICATION

January 4, 1980

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



382377

To: John Fisher, Criminal Investigations Unit
Environmental Enforcement Division

From: Gregory Eagle, Conservation Officer *G. C. E.*
Law Division

Subject: Smith-Henderson Rds. Illegal Industrial
Waste Dump (N 1/2, SW 1/4, NW 1/4, Sec. 22,
Rush Twp., T8N, R2E, Shiawassee Co.)

The following represents a brief summary of the Water Quality Division file for MWA Co. - MidWest Abrasives Division of Owosso. The company (Water Resources Commission facility #780043) is located at 510 S. Washington St. in Owosso, Michigan, 48867. (TX 517-725-7161)

1/3/63 Water Quality Division (WQD) memo

To: Frost and Parker

From: Bohunsky

C.O. Frank Bishop reported an oil slick on the Shiawassee River. The ground around an area where two (2) underground fuel oil storage tanks once existed is contaminated with fuel oil. Seepages periodically reach the river. The Company estimates losses at 10,000 gallons. Arlo Parks, Owosso Fire Marshall, and Guy Vincent, Maintenance Superintendent of MidWest Abrasives, burned 75% of the accumulated oil (15 gallons).

9/13/72 WQD memo

To: Bohunsky

From: Cosens

Memo referenced to a complaint received reporting that MidWest Abrasives dumped 200 barrels of resin in a nearby gravel pit. Cosens contacted Mr. Carpenter at the company on September 11, 1972 who denied the allegations and reported that Hartley & Hartley had been contacted for disposal. The resin was reported to be a liquid that solidifies over time and is stored in 55 gallon drums. Carpenter was cautioned on the toxicity and directed to notify DNR if any

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form of disposal other than incineration would be considered.

9/21/72 WQD memo
To: Cosens
From: Hicks

Investigation report on September 14, 1972 to determine if any wastewater was being discharged to the surface waters. The matter was discussed with Mr. K. Bratt, General Manager. The disposal of animal and phenolic resins was also discussed. The resins are used in making abrasive paper and belts (bonding agent). The company had contacted a solid waste disposal firm in 1970 (not identified) who refused to haul the material after becoming aware of Act 136 regulations. By July 1972 the company reported accumulating approximately 180 barrels and arranged for an employee, Mr. Aurrant, to dispose of them by burial at his farm northwest of Owosso. Staff sampled the waste material and concluded that it was a solid and should be regulated under Act 87. A meeting was to be scheduled with Solid Waste Management of the Michigan Department of Public Health (no record of any meeting being held).

1/19/73 Company letter
To: Water Resources Commission
From: J.A. Cihon, Director of Research

Letter notifying the Commission that an agreement had been entered with Berlin & Farro Liquid Incineration of Swartz Creek for the disposal of materials regulated by Act 200.

5/23/75 Company letter
To: Bohunsky
From: Thomas R. Allsteadt, Industrial Engineer

Reply to Notice of Noncompliance #NC-5-75-01-1275 issued pursuant to NPDES permit #MIO026361 on 5/12/75 for failure to submit monthly operating reports.

7/29/76 WQD memo
To: Cosens
From: Bohunsky
cc: Kellow

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An anonymous telephone caller called on July 28 to report that Midwest Abrasives Co. had disposed of 300 barrels of waste materials into a gravel pit located at 5545 N. Smith Rd. approximately two (2) years earlier. The property is reportedly owned by Ken Oran (Kent Aurand ?). Requests staff follow-up.

9/21/73 Letter to company
To: MWA Co.
From: K. Zollner

Acknowledges receipt of application for reissuance of their NPDES permit. In the company's application the operation is described as the manufacturing of coated and solid abrasive items. Application is for 63,000 gal./day of non-contact cooling water. Reports the use of the following critical materials:

17,390 lbs/yr	lead
262,500 "	phenolic resins
2,500 "	styrene

The application submitted by G.K. Malkani, Executive Vice-President.

12/23/73 Letter to company
To: Harold Schonberg, Plant Engineer
From: Taylor, WQD

Letter requesting PIPP for PCB filled transformers and cautions for proper handling and spill prevention.

3/21/79 WQD received a 3/16/79 liquid industrial waste removal record documenting that Commercial Pumping and Incineration, Plainwell (name scratched out and changed to Liquid Disposal Inc. of Utica) had removed phenolic resins for incineration.

3/26/79 WQD memo
To: Bohunsky
From: Taylor

Note requesting hold-up of permit issuance until the matters brought up in the 3/19/79 letter from Gary Burk, City of Grosse Pointe Utilities Engineer, to MWA Co. regarding the City's

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(cont.)

concern for sewer damage from toxic materials discharges. Also, Burk was concerned for surface water discharges from the company's settling tank overflow and proper disposal of settled solids. (Note: Samples of industrial waste water were collected and analyzed. The following results were reported by Mr. Burk:

Samples collected 6/15/79
Analyses by Environmental Laboratory
Specialists of Owosso

COD	2660	
Cd	0.023	
Cr	0.038	
Cu	0.142	
Pb	0.180	All results
Ni	0.051	in mg/l
Zn	0.961	
NH ₄	15.8	
NO ₂ , NO ₃	253.8	
Oil & Grease	3.4	
P	2.5	
Susp. Solids	157	
phenols	1	

The waste stream was also sampled by WQD on 6/19/79.)

3/27/79 PEAS #423-79 received by P. Gauthier, Oil and Hazardous Materials Control from Donald Barta, 5650 Smith Rd., Henderson (TX 517-723-5651).

3/27/79 PEAS follow-up
To: File
From: Vahovich

Donald Barta reports that MidWest Abrasive in Owosso dumped approximately 200 drums of waste resins in a sandy, gravel area on his property when it was owned by the previous owner, an employee of the company.

Mr. Barta reports that the barrels are above the water table in an old gravel pit. The former property owner was Kent Aurand who lives on Johnstone Rd. (TX 517-661-7737 or 517-723-3540). Aurand's wife reportedly works for an attorney in Owosso, Lewis Benson (TX 517-725-2117).

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3/28/79 WQD Environmental Enforcement Division referral
tracking form
To: File
From: Vohavich

Two of the drums sampled:

liquid	16,000 ug/l	<i>phenol</i>
solid	82,000 "	

Approximately 200 drums yet to be sampled.

3/29/79 Environmental Enforcement Division Investigation
Report
By: Fisher

Don Barta bought property from Kent Aurand approximately 1 1/2 years ago. Aurand (TX 517-661-7737) worked for MidWest Abrasives and allowed the company to dispose of wastes on his property. Aurand no longer works for the company and lives 3 miles north of the dump site and 1/2 mile west of Smith Road on Johnstone Road. (south side).

4/2/79 Eight additional drums sampled by WQD:

Descriptions of the contents varied ("brown oil, black watery liquid, multi-colored semi-solid, clear-brown liquid, reddish-brown watery liquid, etc."). The laboratory was able to characterize the samples as lube oil and phenolic resins varying in phenol concentration from 5,200 to 640,000 ug/l. Surface water sample quantity was insufficient for analyses. Soil samples from the area showed 500 ug/kg of phenol.

6/19/79 Facility inspection report by WQD on reported surface water discharges from the company.

6/23/79 WQD Pollution Investigation Report
By: Vahovich

Summarizes the situation and reports that some of the drums have been damaged by bullets and have leaked to the ground. Concerned for groundwater contamination. Referred to Environmental Enforcement Division.

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7/11/79 Letter to company
To: Schonberg
From: Taylor

Analyses of samples collected on 6/19/79 sent
to the company. The samples were of the waste-
water discharge to the storm sewer:

COD	3300
pH	10.9
Susp. Solids	80
CN	0.02
phenol	96
Cd	N.D.
Cr	N.D.
Cu	0.02
Fe	0.26
Ni	N.D.
Pb	N.D.
Zn	0.42

cc: L. Ward
C. Adams
I. Vahovich/D. Dennis